

August 8, 1941

Dear Sports Editor:

On Feb. 23rd of this year in Chicago, Ill., this writer, sitting in a joint meeting of the Negro National and Negro American League, suggested that the Negro National League take a vote on a motion to dissolve the joint agreement between the Negro National League and Negro American League.

This suggestion was made because the N. A. League Officials had steadfastly refused Negro Players, who had jumped to foreign countries, the opportunity to again play in the United States with Organized Negro Baseball.

The Officials of the N. A. L. sensing the determination of the N. N. L. owners to reinstate these players, even though it meant the breaking up of elastic peace between the two Leagues, changed their attitude, and, after a short intermission, sponsored a resolution to allow these players to play in Organized Negro Baseball after they paid a specified sum to each League Treasury.

We have no record of any fines which were paid in either League.

All this is just a lot of rambling, just so were the arguments and compromises at the Joint meeting of the two Leagues.

We read in the Afro-American where the Sports Editor of that paper asked the public if Satchell Paige was "running" Negro Organized Baseball.

All this is somewhat on the theoretical side, but so close to being practical that we wonder. Here are some known facts. Known facts regardless of whom it affects.-----

The first item is: May 11th at Yankee Stadium in New York City, the New York Black Yankees used Satchell Paige, a member of the Negro American League in a game against Philadelphia Stars.

Satchell Paige was paid one-hundred dollars by each club to pitch this game. A League game was called off without the agreement of the other four clubs so this game could be played.

When Jim Semler and Ed Gottlieb made this deal with Paige they started a precedent.

They broke the agreement between the two Leagues. They furnished the opportunity for Satchell to be publicized as no Negro or White player has been publicized in the history of Baseball. We verbally criticized their action in using Paige in this game. We were then assured Black Yankees would use him the remainder of the season. In the midst of our verbal criticism we were reassured by Paige that he had no contract with any club of the N.A. League in 1940 or 1941 and intended to play in New York in 1941. Semler and Gottlieb allowed themselves to be talked out of Satchell Paige after giving him fifty thousand dollars worth of publicity.

They declared war and then gave their army away.

The Kansas City Monarchs, just lukewarm toward Paige in 1939-1940, took Paige into their arms and coddled him, while looking at his pictures in Life, Fridays, P.M., Saturday Evening Post and one hundred other publications. They even gave him an iron bound contract for his protection.

Before we go any farther we wish it understood by all that Satchell Paige is due every cent he is getting. We want him to get enough to live independently for all time. We don't think Satchell is getting these bonuses which are charged clubs wherever Satchell pitches. We hate to see outsiders getting rich on Satchell's reputation. A reputation made by his own efforts and by Semler and Gottlieb's generosity. We don't like to see Abe Saperstein and Syd Pollock making more money using Satchell, than Satchell gets for Satchell.

We don't like to see Tom Baird and Wilkinson making more money than Satchell although they deserve a percentage of his earnings.

Abe Saperstein booked Chicago American Giants, St. Louis Stars and Memphis Red Sox at Cincinnati, Ohio. He gave the Park at Cincinnati 15%. He gave the three clubs enough percentage that it added to 50% (namely, Chicago 16%, St. Louis 16%, Memphis 18%). He had 35% for Saperstein to operate the game. The clubs got approximately \$2700.00 to split three ways. Saperstein got approximately \$1900 to operate the game. The Park got approximately \$810. Then after Saperstein got his \$1900 he charged each club 5% for booking which added \$135.00 to his \$1900.00. There should be no place in Negro or any other kind of baseball for a man like this. Despite all this six clubs of Negro Organized Baseball (all from the West) voted to have Saperstein publicize the East-West game on the radio and in the white dailies. His cut of this game was over \$1500.00.

He used this position to advertise Satchell Paige more than the East-West game itself. It was a great opportunity to repay Baird and Wilkinson for past favors. Satchell got \$300.00. But Saperstein did not forget Saperstein. In all his publicity it was always Abe Saperstein promoter.

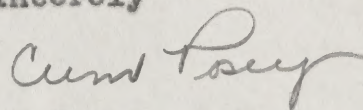
That position voted to Saperstein over the votes of Cubans, Black Yanks, Grays, Baltimore with Newark and Philly Stars not voting gave Saperstein an "in" at all parks.

It gave him the opportunity to contract big league park officials and ^{ask} ~~aks~~ for the use of their parks on the strength of promoting 43,000 into Comiskey Park to the East-West Baseball game. That was foreseen by owners favorable to Saperstein. Saperstein is using it. He does not state that not more than 1500 white fans saw the East-West game.

Negro Baseball can become stable on one premise alone. Advertise the games as Major League Negro Baseball. Give the fans high class baseball.

We personally promoted the Gray-Baltimore game at Detroit. No single players were picked out. The clubs as a whole were advertised. These two clubs put \$35,000 worth of fans through the turnstiles. There were but 150 passes issued and the expenses were \$500 compared to \$7,000 for the East-West game. The clubs can return and draw the same crowd on the strength of the game they played. We are irrevocably committed to the total obliteration of all opportunitists out of organized Negro Baseball. We favor sitting those, who own baseball clubs and favor outside opportunitists, into a back seat where they cannot control Negro Baseball. None of these opportunitists would be found in 1932-33-34. Now they are attempting to take over Negro Baseball.

Sincerely



Cum Posey